

## Message from the Chief

Tempe Police Employees,

Last week we welcomed the return of Officer Todd Long to our Traffic Bureau and the DUI Night Squad.

Todd is back pursuing his passion as a law enforcement officer, and he excels at it – taking impaired drivers off our streets, and reducing the potential for those late night fatality calls to our Vehicular Crimes Unit and the families of lost loved ones.

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly two years since April 5th, 2009, when Todd was struck by another vehicle that failed to yield, while performing his duties as a Motor Officer. The collision resulted in life threatening injuries.

The support of Todd's own family and his police family never wavered. His courage, strength, resilience, and optimism throughout the long and difficult recovery are a model for us all.

At the most basic level, 'being there' in the many different ways we each have to offer, is why we are such a close knit organization, and a big part of why this is such a great place to serve. I want to take this time also to send best wishes to the police employees who have experienced significant injury in the performance of their duties. These employees truly risked and sacrificed their health and well-being to assure the safety of our community.

Several of our employees are experiencing the difficulty of long-term sick leave or disability. And some have had a family member suffer serious injury or illness.

As you are so great at doing, I encourage each of you to reach out and connect with members of our organization who are experiencing a difficult time.

Life can be precarious, as we experience all too often in our daily work. It's good to know that when times are difficult, we always have been, and will be there for each other.

I wish all employees, especially those dealing with difficult personal circumstances, the very best this New Year.

Welcome back Todd.

Sincerely,

Tom